



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000**

AGC(E) 03096
September 5, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY INVITEES

Subj: VETERANS FOUNDATION INCORPORATED 9TH ANNUAL AMERICAN
VETERANS AWARD SHOW

Ref: (a) ASD(PA) ltr dated May 29, 2003

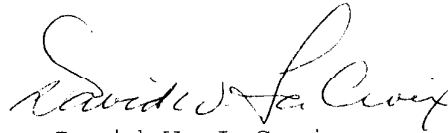
The Veterans Foundation Incorporated is sponsoring the 9th Annual American Veterans Award show in Beverly Hills, California, on November 21, 2003. A large number of individuals from the private sector interested in supporting the mission of the Department of the Navy are expected to attend.

By reference (a), the Department of Defense (DOD) determined that this event is a social event that DOD employees may not attend in their official capacities unless attendance is for the purpose of presenting a speech on a DOD subject within the speaker's official cognizance or for the purpose of receiving an award. For the purposes of attendance by DOD employees in their personal capacities as specified in 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g), Widely Attended Gatherings, DOD concluded that there may be a community relations interest in attending this event as it may present an opportunity to significantly enhance DOD's community relations mission with non-Federal attendees. This determination is left to the individual employee's ethics counselor.

The Department of the Navy has determined that attendance by Department of Navy personnel at this event qualifies as an exception under 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(2). This memorandum constitutes a blanket determination of agency interest in accordance with 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(3)(ii). This memorandum also constitutes a finding under 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(3)(i) that the Department of the Navy's interest in having employees attend this event outweighs concerns that the acceptance of the gift of free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence the employee in the performance of his official duties. Accordingly, Department of Navy personnel and their spouses or other guest may accept free attendance at this event, i.e., food, refreshments, entertainment, and other materials furnished to all attendees as an integral part of the event. Department of Navy personnel may not accept travel expenses or lodgings, nor may appropriated funds be expended for the sole purpose of attending the event.

Please note that the American Veteran Award Symposium will be held on the same day. DOD has determined that this is a separate event and appears to be a conference that DOD employees may attend in their official capacity if their agency designee determines that there is a legitimate DOD purpose that justifies attendance.

If you have any questions concerning these events, please seek advice from your ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. LaCroix". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "L".

David W. LaCroix
Assistant General Counsel (Ethics)